

Message Text

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ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 DRC-01 CCO-00

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Z 091040Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9401

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4332

DEPT PASS TO SECRETARY'S PLANE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SP (KISSINGER HENRY A)

SUBJ: SECSTATE VISIT: VIEWS AND INTERESTS OF PRIME MINISTER AND
FOREIGN MINISTER ON US-SPANISH RELATIONS

REF: BREMER-SIMCOX TELECON OF JULY 9

1. PRIME MINISTER CARLOS ARIAS NAVARRO. WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER IS INEXPERIENCED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HAS MADE FEW PUBLIC STATEMENTS REVEALING HIS VIEWS, HE HAS GIVEN SEVERAL RECENT INDICATIONS OF A FAVORABLE DISPOSITION TOWARDS THE U.S. DURING CALL BY AMBASSADOR SHORTLY AFTER ARIAS TOOK OFFICE, PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN FOLLOWING U.S. LEAD IN DEALING WITH ENERGY PROBLEM, INDICATING THAT ALL WESTERN NATIONS--EVEN THOSE WHO PLAY UP INDEPENDENCE OF THEIR FOREIGN POLICY--LOOK NATURALLY TO U.S. FOR LEADERSHIP IN MOMENTS OF CRISES SUCH AS THIS. IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTION OF HIS FEB 12 SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT, PRIME MINISTER WAS UNUSUALLY OUTSPOKEN IN REAFFIRMING IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE TIES WITH US, SPECIFICALLY AVOIDING ALL TOO FREQUENT THEME THAT SPANISH CONCESSIONS TO US UNDER BASES AGREEMENT ARE UNRECIPROCATED. IN OUR JUDGEMENT, FACT THAT PRIME MINISTER ACCEPTED US INVITATION TO VISIT 6TH FLEET

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AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN JUNE WAS PERHAPS MOST CANDID ADMISSION

SO FAR OF HIS FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TOWARD US.
WHILE PRIME MINISTER RECOGNIZES HIS INEXPERIENCE AND RELIES
HEAVILY ON CLOSE FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS, HE SEEMS TO HAVE
ACCEPTED PREVAILING VIEW THAT GIVEN DISARRAY IN EUROPE AND ITS
CONTINUED REJECTION OF SPAIN, HIS GOVERNMENT MUST PLACE EVEN GREATER
RELIANCE ON SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH US.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT, AS IS HIS CUSTOM, PROBABLY WILL NOT
RAISE SUBSTANTIVE FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES DURING TALK WITH SECRETARY.
WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT HIS STAFF, WHICH INCREASINGLY CONCERNED
ABOUT SPAIN'S NEGATIVE IMAGE ABROAD, HAS ENCOURAGED HIM TO USE
OCCASION TO BRIEF SECRETARY ON HIS GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO OPEN UP
SPANISH POLITICAL LIFE AND MAKE SPANISH INSTITUTIONS MORE PAR-
TICIPATORY.

FOREIGN MINISTER PEDRO CORTINA MAURI
IN HIS LONG CAREER, FOREIGN MINISTER HAS HAD RELATIVELY
LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH ANGLO-SAXON WORLD AND ACCORDING
TO SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES, NEITHER UNDERSTANDS IT NOR APPRECIATES IT
IMPORTANCE. FOREIGN MINISTER WAS UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AT TIME OF 1970 BASE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS BUT HE PLAYED NO MAJOR
ROLE IN THEM. HE HAS NOT SERVED IN ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRY AND
SPEAKS ENGLISH ADEQUATELY THOUGH HALTINGLY. DESPITE HEAVY
EXPOSURE TOWARD SPAIN'S EUROPEAN INTEREST IN PAST CAREER, CORTINA
HAS BECOME OUTSPOKEN PROPONENT OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S.
HE OFFERED FULL SPANISH COLLABORATION ON SOLVING ENERGY PROBLEMS
AND CLEARLY SHOWED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SPAIN WAS NEITHER INCLUDED
IN EWG NOR CONSULTED BY U.S. ON ITS WORK. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH
AMBASSADOR AND OTHERS, HE HAS TAKEN LINE THAT SPAIN IS MOST RELIABLE
ALLY OF U.S. IN EUROPE SINCE IT GIVES ITS FRIENDSHIP AND LOYALTY
WITHOUT QUID PRO QUO OF FORMAL PROTECTION ENJOYED BY OTHER NATO
COUNTRIES.

CORTINA APPARENTLY AWARE THAT, BECAUSE HE IS CAREER PROFESSIONAL
WITHOUT STRONG POLITICAL BASE, HE LACKS POWERFUL VOICE IN PRESENT
GOVERNMENT. AWARENESS THAT HIS PRESTIGE AND PROFESSIONAL
CREDENTIALS ARE VERY MUCH AT STAKE HAS IMPELLED HIM TO GIVE
GREATEST PRIORITY AND PERSONAL ATTENTION TO SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENT
OF JOINT DECLARATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADVANTAGEOUS RENEWAL OF
BASE AGREEMENT.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PLANE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MADRID04332
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740181-1128
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740765/aaaacdvl.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BREMER-SIMCOX TELECON OF JULY 9
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECSTATE VISIT: VIEWS AND INTERESTS OF PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER ON US-SPANISH RELATIONS
TAGS: OVIP, SP, (KISSINGER HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005